

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 02300 201649Z

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 AGR-10 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05

CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06 LAB-04

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R 201611Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2969

UNCLAS BEIRUT 2300

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN

SUBJECT: REQUEST BY MINISTER OF ECONOMY AND TRADE FOR TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE IN INSTALLING PRICE CONTROLS

1. DURING THE RECENT VISIT OF COMMERCE UNDER SECRETARY
TABOR, THE MINISTER OF ECONOMY AND TRADE (ABBAS KHALAF),
ON WHOM MR. TABOR CALLED, STATED THAT HE WAS PROCEEDING WITH
THE INSTITUTION OF CERTAIN PRICE CONTROLS ON BASIC PRODUCTS.
HE HAD REQUESTED SEVERAL EUROPEAN COUNTRIES FOR TECHNICAL
EXPERTS AND HAD ALSO APPLIED TO THE UNDP. HE THEN ADDED
THAT HE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN RECEIVING SIMILAR TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE FROM THE UNITED STATES. EMBOFF ACCOMPANYING
TABOR SAID HE WOULD BE PLEASED TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILI-
TIES OF OBTAINING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FROM U.S. SOURCES,
POINTING OUT HOWEVER THAT, IF SUCH ASSISTANCE WERE AVAIL-
ABLE, IT WOULD HAVE TO BE ON A REIMBURSABLE BASIS.

2. KHALAF STATED THAT HE WAS AGREEABLE TO A REIMBURSABLE
ARRANGEMENT AND WOULD SUPPLY US WITH THE PARTICULARS.
SINCE THEN HE HAS FURNISHED US WITH THE FOLLOWING TERMS
OF REFERENCE FOR THE EXPERT OR EXPERTS WE MIGHT BE ABLE
TO SEND, WHO PREFERABLY SHOULD BE ECONOMISTS WITH LONG
EXPERIENCE IN THE FIELD:

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A) TO ADVISE THE MINISTER OF ECONOMY AND TRADE IN FORMULATING PRICE POLICY ESPECIALLY WITH RESPECT TO FOOD PRODUCTION.

B) HELP THE MINISTRY IN PREPARING AND IMPLEMENTING A SYSTEM OF PRICE REGULATION AND/OR CONTROL.

C) TO PROVIDE MANAGEMENT TRAINING AND COUNSEL FOR THE ENVISAGED BUREAU OF PRICE POLICY AND TO HELP ORGANIZE THIS BUREAU.

D) TO ADVISE ON IMPROVING MARKETING AND DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD PRODUCTS SUBJECT TO PRICE REGULATION AND/OR CONTROL.

3. WOULD APPRECIATE THE DEPARTMENT'S ASSISTANCE IN ASSESSING THE EXTENT TO WHICH WE COULD RESPOND TO KHALAF'S REQUEST. BACKGROUND AND BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ARE CONTAINED IN BEIRUT'S A-242 OF DEC. 12, 1975.
HOUGHTON

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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